

FLIGHT JACKET

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Operation Spear strikes terrorist strong points

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Marines and Iraqi security forces continue Operation Spear, called Rohme in Arabic, in Iraq's Anbar Province, finding weapons caches and calling in air strikes on terrorist strong points.

Regimental Combat Team 2 and the unit's Iraqi allies are uncovering terrorist weapons caches in and around Karabilah, a small city near the Syrian border. Press reports indicate the forces have killed more than 100 insurgents.

Four hostages rescued by Iraqi soldiers and U.S. Marines June 18 are currently receiving medical attention for wounds caused by their captors, U.S. officials said. The rescued individuals reported they were tortured and held for three weeks. They said they were not interrogated by the insurgents or told why they were being held prisoner.

The building that held the hostages also contained a small basement that contained a weapons cache, consisting of automatic rifles and several machine guns, along with supplies of ammunition. The building was part of a compound containing a small school with bomb-making instructions on the classroom's blackboard. Training manuals and DVDs of insurgents beheading captives were also found in the compound.

Coalition forces located a makeshift Improvised Explosive Device factory June 18. The site contained cell phones, blasting caps and other various bomb-making materials. These materials are often used to construct roadside and car bombs.

The Marines and Iraqis also found small weapons caches in various buildings in the city. Weapons found included an improvised



Two CH-46E Sea Knights from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, take off on a casualty evacuation mission June 18. The "Black Knights" of HMM-264 have a detachment of Marines and aircraft at Al Qaim, Iraq, conducting casualty evacuation missions during Operation Spear. Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara

mortar system, sniper rifles and ammunition.

Later numerous small groups of terrorists, armed primarily with AK-47 assault rifles, continued to oppose the Iraqi soldiers and Marines' movement throughout the city.

A suicide truck bomber was killed when a Marine tank crew fired a single round at the vehicle. Sudanese and Saudi Arabian terrorists have been confirmed among those killed, U.S. officials said.

Late June 18, terrorists fired on Marines and Iraqi soldiers just outside a mosque. The

terrorists fled into the mosque when coalition forces returned fire. Three terrorists were killed as a result of the engagement.

Pilots from 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, the British Royal Air Force and the U.S. Air Force attacked vehicles and terrorist-occupied buildings with laser-guided bombs and missiles in and around Karabilah June 18.

Marine F/A-18 Hornets and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters and British GR-4 Tornados, along with Air Force F-16 Fighting Falcons, provided close air support. Marine

transport helicopters also gave crucial troop lift and logistical support.

Though severe dust storms are slowing the clearing of objective areas by Iraqi soldiers and U.S. Marines, the operation will continue, officials said.

Iraqi security forces and U.S. Marines wore full combat equipment, to include 41-pound fragmentation vests with ballistic plates and Kevlar helmets, operating in temperatures reaching 106 degrees Fahrenheit in Karabilah.

Bush calls on Americans to unite against terror in Iraq

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — While people may disagree on the decision to liberate Iraq, all should agree that the country is the central front in the war on terror, President Bush said in his weekly national radio address June 18.

Bush reminded Americans that the United States did not seek the war on terror. "We went to war because we were attacked," he said. "And we are at war today because there are still people out there who want to harm our country and hurt our citizens."

The president said terrorists are violently opposed to a democratic and free Iraq. "They know that when we replace despair and hatred with liberty and hope, they lose their recruiting grounds for terror," he said.

Bush said American servicemembers are fighting in Iraq so Americans won't have to face the terrorists in the United States. "The terrorists know they cannot defeat our troops, so they seek to weaken our nation's resolve," the president said. "They know there is no room for them in a free and democratic Middle East, so the terrorists and insurgents are trying to get us to retreat."

The terrorists' goal is to get the coalition to leave Iraq

before the Iraqi government and its security forces are ready to assume responsibility.

No one should underestimate the Iraqi people, the president said. "Time and again, the Iraqi people have defied the skeptics who claim they are not up to the job of building a free society," he said.

He noted that June 28 marks a year since the Coalition Provisional Authority returned sovereignty to the Iraqi people. In that time, the Iraqi government has held elections, formed a government and begun writing a constitution.

See BUSH, page 3

Inside

Weekend forecast from Miramar's weather station



Best
in
Corps
page 3



Marines
speak on
leadership
page 7



DoD warns servicemembers against 'loan shark' lenders

Story by Terri Lukach

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has launched a new effort to educate servicemembers about the dangers of borrowing from "loan-shark" lending companies and to teach them how to avoid ending up in a spiral of compounding debt, a DoD official said June 18.

The most prevalent type of loan-shark lending affecting military personnel is what is known as "payday loans," said John M. Molino, deputy undersecretary of defense for military community and family policy. "A payday loan is essentially a plug - money that gets you from today to the next payday so you can cover your bills." The problem is that money is very expensive, he said in an interview.

"Typically, a payday loan of a \$100 will cost the borrower \$17 for two weeks," he added. "The average payday loan is about \$500, so now we're talking about a fee of \$85."

"By itself, that's not a big problem," Molino said. "However, when you consider that it is not uncommon for that military member to roll the loan over four or five times, that \$85 will grow exponentially to the point where you are paying an enormous amount of money for the relatively meager amount of the loan."

"It got you through payday, but if you weren't able to pay it off, now it's two more weeks, and two more weeks, and you're paying nearly 500 percent interest annually. That's a lot of money to pay," he said.

Considering that about 9 percent of all enlisted personnel and 12 percent of all mid-level noncommissioned officers use payday loans, the potential for detrimental impact on mission accomplishment is very real, Molino said.

"If you're in debt, you have other things in mind. You're doing things other than concentrating on the mission; maybe you're taking on other employment. The

effects are long-lasting and go deep into a person's performance; it affects unit readiness," Molino said.

Part of the problem is the proximity of payday lenders to military installations. "If you look at where they position their businesses, they are right outside the gate," Molino said. A recent study of 15,000 payday lenders in more than 13,000 ZIP codes in 20 states that host military installations revealed that payday lenders open their storefronts around military installations.

Molino said the department is taking steps, such as hosting fairs at military installations, to educate military members about the dangers of payday loans and familiarize them with ways to put themselves and their families on a sound financial footing.

"We can make soldiers smarter," he said. "We can make them better consumers; we can teach them how to save for a rainy day, so when they need to borrow they can - and pay themselves back, at no interest. We are also doing something about payday lenders."

Molino said his office is watching them closely, looking at behaviors and patterns that are inconsistent with state law and encouraging states to pass laws that are not only friendly to servicemembers but also require honesty and discipline on the part of payday lenders.

Molino cited Georgia, Florida and Oklahoma as examples of states that have taken positive action against payday lenders. Last year Georgia passed legislation that eliminated payday lending from the state, he said, while Florida and Oklahoma now require a 24-hour waiting period between payday loans, thus eliminating rollovers and multiple loans.

"We believe we need to work hard to limit the impact of payday lenders, but the real answer is to help our servicemembers and their families get control of their own finances to be in charge of their future," Molino said.



Is this your Oldsmobile?

The above vehicle has been marked for impound by the Provost Marshal's Office. To avoid having the vehicle towed, please store it in the Marine Corps Community Services or Traffic Management Office lots.

Abandoned vehicles at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar present security risks as well as environmental and safety concerns. PMO attempts to identify and contact vehicle owners of illegally parked, abandoned vehicles prior to tagging the vehicle with a Department of Defense notice. Vehicles are then scheduled for towing three days following the notice.

For more information, please call 577-1276 or 577-4150.

Task force launches new DoD sexual assault online resource

Story by Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Servicemembers who are victims of sexual assault or who need information on the DoD policy on preventing sexual assaults can find the information at a new Web site.

The site, launched by Joint Task Force Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is basically a consolidated place to go for information, said Air Force Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, the commander of the JTF.

The site has links to all the services' Web sites related to the sexual assault issue. It spells out what people can do if they are victims of sexual assault, the general said.

The designers of the new site, which went live this week, had to name the site with the initials of the organization - sapr.mil - rather than something like

"sexualassault.mil" because too many firewalls would block out a request under that name, the general explained.

The site is more than just a reporting site. If an individual has questions about the policy, the answers are available on the Web site. "Because it is a DoD site, one could access this one site and get the overarching information," McClain said. "Since we link to the service Web sites, an individual could get that information too."

If a commander or a first sergeant has questions, this site should provide the answers, but if not, they can send an e-mail via the site and a JTF member will answer.

McClain said the group already is thinking of improvements. "We will add other things as we get them done," she said. "We're readying a commander's checklist on sexual assault prevention, for example."

MIRAMARKS

"What are some things you can do to avoid payday loan lenders?"

CPL. HECTOR BENITEZ
Aviation Ordnanceman
MALS-16

"Manage your money properly and have a plan. Go to financial management courses and take advantage of the financial planners here."



SGT. JOSHUA OLVERA
CH-53 Mechanic
HMH-462

"Be financially responsible and don't go out there on the weekends like you have an endless paycheck."



FLIGHT JACKET

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Layout

Miramar civilian firefighter named best in Corps

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

Fire Captain Paul J. Tompkins, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Fire Department, received the 2004 Marine Corps Civilian Firefighter of the Year award June 6 at the air station.

Tompkins received his award for bringing Miramar's fire and fuels management program up to nationally recognized standards of wildland fire management.

"We are required by the Marine Corps to have a management plan to manage the large area of burnable acreage in our wildlands out here," said David H. Allen, assistant fire chief, Miramar Fire Department. "Captain Tompkins basically volunteered to head that up because he had some background in wildland fires and developing plans for field breaks and fire roads."

Although a fire management plan had to be created regardless of who did it, Tompkins' name was not drawn out of a hat.

"He has been working with me for a number of years now," said Allen. "He's one of my best firefighters and crew leaders. He is a very reliable, conscientious and organized person. He is able to accomplish both his normal mission and any extra collateral duty that he is taking on at that time."

According to Tompkins, several methods are used to complete his mission.

"When I'm given a task, I research it, draw information from other sources and attend training to educate myself on the subject matter if necessary," said Tompkins, a Burbank, Calif., native. "I have to attempt to fully understand my overall mission and then set clear goals and objectives."

However, succeeding enough to gain the Marine Corps Civilian Firefighter of the Year award is not an individual effort.

"It is really a nomination of the entire Miramar Fire Department, because what I have been able to accomplish here is not an individual effort, but outstanding sup-



Fire Captain Paul J. Tompkins stands in front of a fire engine June 16 at Station 62 on East Miramar. The fire captain with the MCAS Miramar Fire Department received the 2004 Marine Corps Civilian Firefighter of the Year award at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

port from the rest of the department," said Tompkins. "This was all made possible through the support of our fire chiefs, assistant fire chiefs and all of the other firefighters who implement these programs and projects on the ground."

Although it was in part due to a group effort, his crewmembers feel he is deserving of such an award.

"He is an excellent firefighter and a

good friend because he genuinely cares about people," said Mark W. Gordon, firefighter, Miramar Fire Department. "He spends an extraordinary amount of time and effort on and off duty working on various specialized projects for the department."

Even with the amount of time Tompkins puts into the fire department, he still feels privileged for receiving such recognition from others.

"I feel honored and grateful to be selected from an outstanding group of Marine Corps civilian firefighters from across the country and to be able to represent the Miramar Fire Department," Tompkins concluded. "This award helps gain some recognition for the Miramar Fire Department and for the other agencies to see what an excellent fire department Miramar truly has."

Tompkins is scheduled to attend the Department of Defense Fire and Emergency Services Awards Banquet in August, where he will compete against the civilian firefighters of the year from the Navy, Army and Air Force for the DoD Civilian Firefighter of the Year award.

"... what I have been able to accomplish here is not an individual effort, but outstanding support from the rest of the department."

**Paul J. Tompkins
Fire Captain
Miramar Fire Department**

BUSH

continued from page 1

tion. The Iraqis have also fielded a force of almost 170,000 police and soldiers now fighting alongside coalition forces.

"This week, Iraqis have worked on an agreement to expand their constitutional-drafting committee to ensure that all communities are represented in the process," Bush said. "I am confident that Iraqis will continue to defy the skeptics as they build a new Iraq that represents the diversity of their nation and assumes greater responsibility for their own security. And when they do, our troops can come home with the honor they have earned."

The mission in Iraq is not easy nor will it be quick, the president said. "We're fighting a ruthless enemy that relishes the killing of innocent men, women and children," he said. "By making their stand in Iraq, the terrorists have made Iraq a vital test for the future security of our country and the free world. We will settle for nothing less than victory."

Harrier crashes into Yuma neighborhood

Story compiled by CPAO Miramar

MCAS Miramar

An AV-8B Harrier II aircraft from Marine Attack Squadron 513, Marine Aircraft Group 13, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, crashed in a residential area about one mile north of the air station at 2:49 p.m. June 15 while returning from a training flight, according to press releases from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

The pilot ejected safely and sustained only minor injuries. He was transported to Yuma Regional Medical Center as a precaution.

According to the Yuma County Emergency Operations Center, one civilian sustained minor lacerations to the left arm due to the accident.

About a half-mile radius around the crash site was evacuated due to the aircraft carrying four 500-pound bombs and 300 rounds of 25-millimeter ammunition.

MCAS Yuma's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team responded and began defusing the ordnance on site and removing it from the area.

The four bombs have been recovered and removed from the area. Two hundred ninety six of the 300 25-milimeter rounds have been recovered from the site as of Wednesday, and air station personnel continue to search for the remaining ammunition.

The station's Aircraft, Rescue and Fire Fighting division, Fire Department and Provost Marshal's Office also responded to the incident in conjunction with the City of Yuma and Rural Metro Fire Departments, City of Yuma Police Department and many other local emergency responders.

Approximately 300 Marines from VMA-513 began sweeping the crash site at 7 a.m. June 16, clearing the area of hazardous material, ammunition and debris in order to allow local citizens to return to their residence.

At approximately 10 a.m. June 16, many of the area's residents began returning to their homes. EOD teams, environ-



Debris and wreckage of a Marine Corps AV-8B Harrier aircraft is strewn over a Yuma, Ariz., neighborhood following a crash June 15. *Official Marine Corps photo*

mental specialists, and other recovery personnel from the air station continued to clear the area of the materials.

The majority of debris and wreckage from the aircraft has been recovered and transported to MCAS Yuma. Yuma residents who may have sustained injury or property damage resulting from the aircraft crash may contact the MCAS Yuma

Joint Law Center at (928) 269-3488 for assistance in filing claims.

Anyone who has witnessed the crash is asked to call (928) 269-2275 and they will have the appropriate station department contact them.

The cause of the accident is under investigation.

Calibration lab ensures safety, success for Marine aviation

Story by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

On dark, cloudy nights, when helicopter pilots have no visual reference point, they must rely and trust in the avionics instruments, like the altimeter, to get them safely to their destination.

Ensuring the instruments are in good working order are avionics Marines, like those with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing.

The Marines of the calibration lab, which is part of the squadron's avionics section, ensure the equipment used to test the avionics gear is in proper working order.

"We're the backbone of the squadron and the group, fixing everybody's problems," said Gunnery Sgt. Eric G. Garcia, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, calibration lab, avionics section, MALS-16. "We don't work on the avionics of the aircraft. We work on anything used to test the avionics, ensuring the testing gear operates within a given set of tolerances - making sure it does what it's supposed to do."

When the lab receives the test equipment from the different avionics sections, an inventory of the gear is performed before it is turned over to the

work center where the actual calibration and repairs are done.

"The job can be very routine work, especially the record keeping," said Cpl. Salina E. Molina, calibration noncommissioned officer for issue and receiving with MALS-16. "We have to keep good records, make sure that if the equipment came in with 20 wires, that it goes out with 20 wires."

With all the equipment coming in and out of the calibration lab, a schedule must be used to ensure that all gear is calibrated on time.

"The calibration Marines are responsible for actually picking up the gear when it is due for calibration according to the equipment's schedule. Anything used for quantitative measurement must be checked to make sure it tests within a given tolerance," said Garcia. "For example, a digital multimeter, we make sure that if it reads one volt, it is really one volt, because if it doesn't read correctly then some of the systems like the Identification Friend or Foe will not work properly and lead to a fratricide incident."

Along with playing the part of safety watchdog, the Marines within the calibration lab view themselves as gatekeepers to the group's level of readiness, according to Cpl. Julio C.

Carcamo Jr., calibration technician with MALS-16.

"We are pretty much unknown outside of avionics, but we're the backbone of support for the logistics squadron, everything comes through us," said Carcamo.

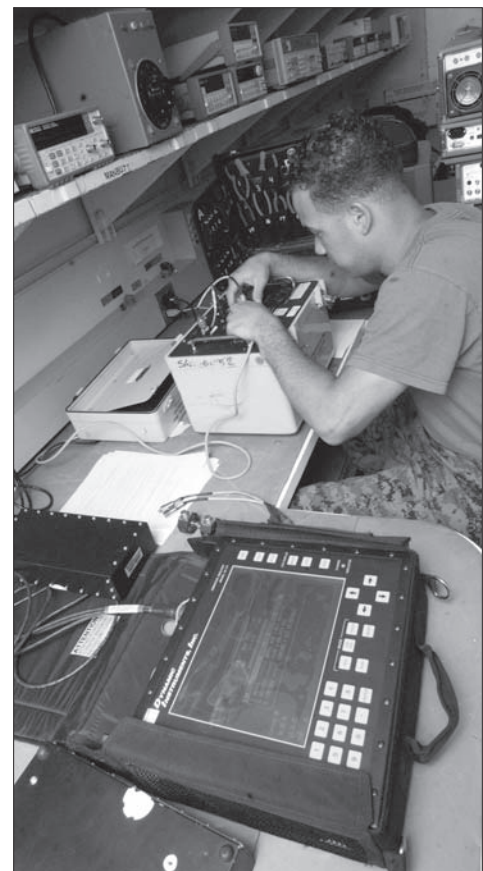
Along with the calibration of avionics test equipment, the Marines are responsible for procurement of replacement parts on the equipment they are constantly evaluating.

"After the lab's Marines tell us what's wrong - what part is broken on the test gear - we hit the web to locate it," said Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Brusich, expeditor, calibration lab, MALS-16. "It's like trying to find parts for an old car - you have to be creative in your search to locate it."

"We spend hours on the web checking different suppliers for the pieces, a difficult task made tougher by the fact that many of the parts aren't made any more. Sometimes it's better to buy a whole component than a small piece, because it's cheaper," he added.

According to the section's enlisted leader, a certain type of person does well working in the calibration lab.

"If you love opening stuff up and seeing how it works, then you'll love this job," said Garcia.



Corporal Julio C. Carcamo Jr., uses a portable vibration calibrator June 8 to test a tracking analyzer/balance system that checks the vibration in CH-46 Sea Knight and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters. Carcamo, a calibration technician, and his fellow Marines within the calibration lab of the avionics section, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 16, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, fight the continuous battle of testing, repairing and replacing all the avionics test equipment used by the 10 helicopter squadrons supported by MALS-16. Photo by Cpl. Jonathan K. Teslevich

‘Black Knights’ ride into Operation Spear

Story by Sgt. Juan Vara

2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

AL QAIM, Iraq — The “Black Knights” of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, have a detachment of personnel and aircraft here supporting Operation Spear, an offensive aimed at eliminating insurgents and foreign fighters from the northwestern Al Anbar Province.

According to Maj. Chris Boniface, detachment officer in charge and CH-46E pilot, the detachment is conducting casualty evacuations, any possible combat re-supply and assault support.

While the majority of the squadron is based at Al Asad, Iraq, where they already have a mission to carry out, Boniface said sending a detachment here doesn’t affect the squadron’s workload.

Recently, the squadron had a detachment here conducting the same types of missions in support of Operation Matarador.

“We plan for these types of detachments,” said Boniface, a native of Jacksonville, N.C. “As a 46 squadron that is our job – to be able to meet the requirements and needs of the Marines on the ground.”

A detachment of UH-60A Blackhawks from the U.S. Army’s 571st Medical Company (Air Ambu-

lance) was already operating out of this base, the increase of activity caused by the operation created the need for more personnel and helicopters and HMM-264 was ready to accept the mission.

“This is what we’re supposed to be doing,” said Sgt. Ryan C. Smith, a CH-46E Sea Knight crew chief with the squadron. “We are able to provide on-call support whenever they need it.”

Corporal Thomas J. Dudley, a CH-46E crew chief from Fort Mill, S.C., said casualty evacuation missions are fast paced.

“After we get the call our flight might only last 10 minutes but there are a lot of moving parts,” said Dudley. “As we’re on the way, pilots get information on the threat situation, the type of landing zone we’re going into and things of that nature.”

Smith said the forward air control officers with the Marines

on the ground provide the pilots with the information needed for the helicopter to fly in, load the patient and fly off in a safe manner.

“They do a real good job at giving us information on obstacles near the landing zone and marking the landing zone for us,” said Smith, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native.

The Black Knights of HMM-264 are ready to charge into battle in support of the U.S. and coalition efforts in Iraq.

Whether providing casualty evacuation to ensure warfighters are getting the medical attention that may save their lives or providing logistic or assault support, the Marine squadron’s objective is simple and always the same: to provide the best support possible.



Corporal Christopher Pierce, a CH-46E Sea Knight crew chief with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264, Marine Aircraft Group 26, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, and Statesville, N.C., native, communicates with the pilots while the helicopter warms up before flying out on a mission June 18. *Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara*



First Lieutenant Billy R. Jackson, a CH-46E Sea Knight pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 and Bonifay, Fla., native, gives the thumbs up as he prepares to start one of the engines on the helicopter June 18. *Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara*



Marines with the 2nd Marine Division approach two CH-46E helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264 at Al Qaim, Iraq, to catch a ride into the Operation Spear battlefield June 18. *Photo by Sgt. Juan Vara*

Aviation Marines speak out on Corps' hallmark

Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

In the Marine Corps everyone is a leader – from a young lance corporal to a seasoned colonel. However, the attributes of being a good leader are often debatable throughout the Marine Corps and among Marines.

“To be a leader, you have to have integrity all of the time and the ability to inspire others,” said Lance Cpl. Leizl T. Tagle, operations clerk, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing. “All Marines are leaders - from the way we carry ourselves to the way we do things. Basically, we take things into our own hands and follow the rules.”

According to Sgt. Maico D. Schwenck, powerline mechanic, VMGR-352, to be a good leader a Marine must put forth an extra effort and project that effort upon those they lead at all times.

“A leader is just a person who is in charge of someone,” said Schwenck, who is also a recent Sergeants' Course graduate. “An effective leader is someone who knows everything about their Marines. He's someone who



Corporal Wesley B. Anderson (left), powerline mechanic, Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, Marine Aircraft Group 11, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, demonstrates to fellow powerline mechanic Cpl. Blaine A. Johnson, VMGR-352, how to rotate a blade on a KC-130 propeller at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar June 15. Leadership is demonstrated everyday in the Marine Corps as older Marines pass their knowledge to the new. Photo by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

goes out there and works with them. He experiences what they are going through. That way, he can see first hand what is going

on with his Marines.”

However, leadership abilities are something very few are just born with. Most have to learn

these abilities either through experience or teachings.

“People have to learn the skills of being a leader to

actually become one,” said Tagle, current Marine of the Quarter at VMGR-352. “People obviously can't be born with these abilities. They can be born with the personality of a leader, but everyone is taught at some point in their lives.”

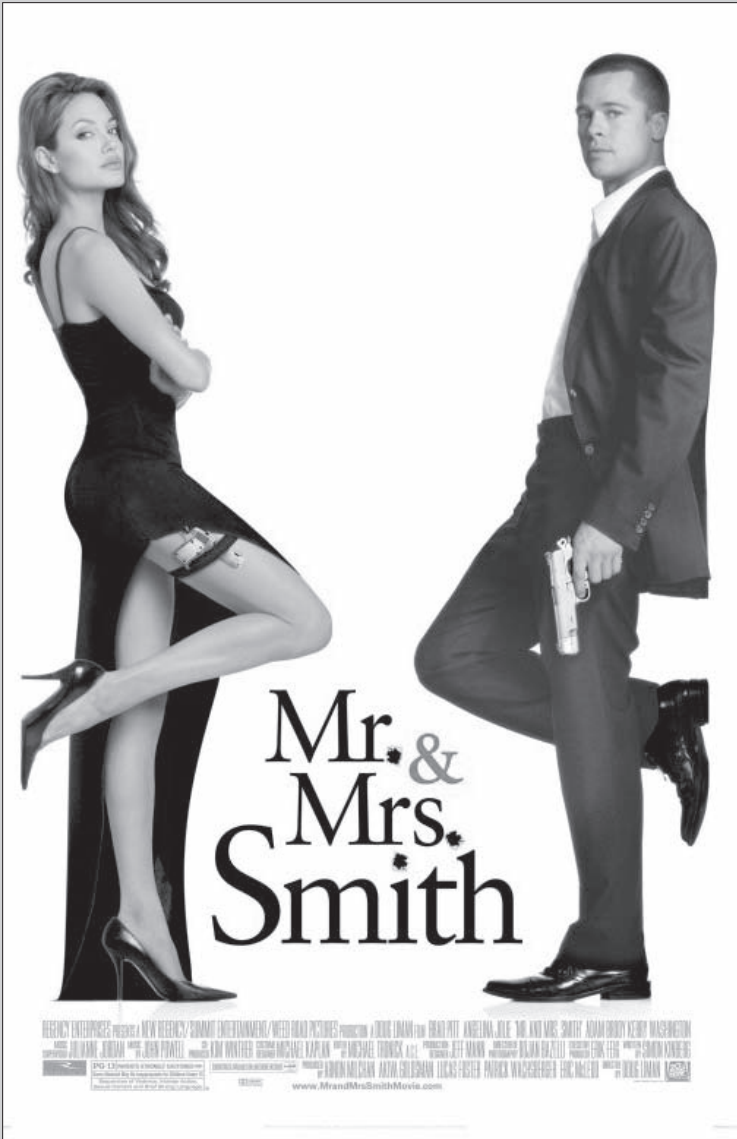
According to Cpl. Wesley B. Anderson, powerline mechanic, VMGR-352, the Corps has several traits and fundamentals Marines can learn and practice to become better leaders.

“These help out a lot,” said Anderson, a recent Corporals' Course graduate. “If you actually follow and know all of these leadership traits and display them to your younger Marines - using them as guidelines - they can help you become a better leader.”

According to Anderson, Marines must portray the image of good leaders all the time, because their subordinates learn from them and begin to mimic them.

“You learn from the people above you,” Anderson concluded. “You look at them and see all the things they do, taking all the good parts about them and using them. Sometimes you may not always think it is right, but you know it is what you have to do, so you adapt and overcome.”

Married assassins gun for each other in ‘Mr. & Mrs. Smith’



Story by Lance Cpl. James B. Hoke

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

“Mr. and Mrs. Smith,” directed by Doug Liman, who is known for directing both action and comedy movies (“The Bourne Identity” and “Swingers”), is an impressive one-hour and 55-minute comedy-action thriller that deals in guns, romance and assassinations.

Liman pulls the audience into the movie by opening it up with John (played by Brad Pitt) and Jane (played by Angelina Jolie) Smith at a marriage-counseling interview, which leads into another scene on how the two met in Columbia secretly pulling off assassination missions.

Five or six years later, we find the two are married, live in a magnificent home and are still completely unaware that they are both assassins for competing agencies.

However, when their agencies send the married assassins after the same target, they end up getting in each other’s way, letting their target escape and discovering the truth about one another.

From there, the Smiths pair try

every means possible to terminate each other, which results in each failing and falling into more love than ever. When their respective employers learn of this, countless assassins are sent to exterminate both of them.

This leads the pair of Hollywood’s hottest movie stars through several extremely well-filmed gun fights, as well as a car chase with Pitt and Jolie driving a minivan and arguing – not unlike real married couples – the entire way.

It is clear that on screen these newly married actors had the time of their lives acting in this film,

as Pitt is beyond convincing in the action scenes and Jolie performs the comedy without error.

Although the film may take reality over the edge in some of the gun fights and stunts, it is definitely worth the time and money to go see.

“Mr. and Mrs. Smith” is rated PG-13 for strong scenes of action, violence, sexual content, innuendo-laced dialogue and sex talk, scattered use of strong profanity and a brief torture scene (done for laughs, like almost everything in the movie).



Photo courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox Films Corp.

Sports brings MACG-38 CPAC team together

Story by Cpl. Skye Jones

MCAS Miramar Combat Correspondent

The clacking sound of fingers hitting keyboards, buzzing telephone rings and chatty Marines fills the cool, air-conditioned room inside Marine Air Control Group 38's administrative offices.

Conversations flow inside the Consolidated Personnel Administrative Center, MACG-38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, as the Marines take care of pay adjustments, orders and each other. Whether they're in the office or out, the CPAC Marines work as a team and they have the trophies to prove it.

MACG-38's CPAC has won numerous sports competitions. Over the past three years, the Marines have defended their title as intramural basketball finalists, three-time intramural flag football champions and, most recently, the 101 Days of Summer dodge ball tournament victors.

"It's not about winning," said Sgt. Gabriel Lopez, Permanent Change of Station orders chief, MACG-38. "We are very competitive when it comes to sports, but it's more about doing things together. We're a family here and everyone's involved."

The CPAC family has approximately 50 Marines who work, train and play together and when a Marine checks in, the shop takes him under their wing immediately.

"We try to get the new Marines involved in activities right away," said Lopez, a San Antonio native. "If we get a quiet Marine, we'll go out with them one-on-one to make them feel comfortable."

When Pfc. Alex Cerrone, audits clerk, MACG-38, checked into the CPAC he was slightly intimidated, but Marines like Sgt. Jeremy S. Brown, separations chief, MACG-38, quickly helped him adapt to the CPAC family.

"We like to give the younger Marines a taste of esprit de corps and brotherhood," said Brown, a Las Vegas native. "Competing in sports is a way for us to do that. It raises our morale and helps us bond at work, which makes us better at our jobs."

When Cerrone was asked to play on the CPAC dodge ball team, he didn't know his teammates very well, but after the tournament he had a few more Marines he could rely on.

"I felt closer to them after playing in the tournament," the Orlando, Fla., native said. "I like competing, and I plan on playing other sports with our shop in the future. It really is like a family here."

According to Master Sgt. Melvin S. McField, CPAC staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge, MACG-38, the administration Marines are never alone.

"On and off duty, they're always

together," said McField, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native. "I barely see them leave for lunch alone. They go to chow together, spend their weekends together and go out-of-bounds together. They get along so well that they don't want to pass the buck and do less work. Everybody has a piece of the pie."

Lopez agrees.

"Doing these extra things brings us together," he said. "Playing sports is fun for us, and if we didn't do things like this, CPAC wouldn't be what it is today. I wouldn't want to be with any other unit."



Marines from the Consolidated Personnel Administrative Center, Marine Air Control Group 38, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, hold up all of their awards in front of the MACG-38 Headquarters building June 14. The administrative Marines have three years worth of trophies that they have earned from competing in various sports competitions. *Photo by Cpl. Skye Jones*



Lance Cpl. Sean M. Gibson gazes out the crew door of a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during a training exercise on Ie Shima, Okinawa, June 2. Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), "Flying Tigers," attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducted field carrier landing practice as part of required training to receive carrier qualification. Pilots must obtain carrier qualification before carrying troops or cargo. Gibson is a CH-46E crew chief with HMM-262. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti*

HMM-262 soars through carrier landing training

Story by Lance Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti

MCB Camp Butler

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA, OKINAWA, Japan — With conflict always on the horizon, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit must be immediately available to complete any mission it is tasked.

Marines with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), "Flying Tigers," currently attached to the 31st MEU, conducted field carrier landing practice June 2 as part of their required training to receive carrier qualification.

"Before we can carry troops or cargo, we have to meet certain requirements," said 1st Lt. Kenneth W. Morrow, the plans officer for HMM-262. "We have to do five shore-based landings, five ship landings and five landings both in high-light level or low-light conditions."

Before the training began, the pilots and crew chiefs were briefed on various issues, including possible inclement weather conditions and equipment needed to conduct the exercise. After the helicopters were fueled and safety-tested, the pilots lifted off and headed for Ie Shima, a small island off the northwest shore of Okinawa, to execute the shore-based portion of the training.

"This training is conducted to simulate shipboard operations as closely as

possible," Morrow explained. "We don't have all the conditions associated with a real ship, but it offers a great training opportunity to practice for the real thing."

Each pilot took turns landing a helicopter on a simulated flight deck. The goal of the crew chiefs and pilots was to work together to ground the aircraft wheels within the designated landing markers. On an actual ship, precision is paramount due to the confined operating space.

"We have to be very thorough when we practice to ensure we can land on a moving vessel," said Gunnery Sgt. Angelo A. Servantez, the airframes chief for HMM-262. "On a ship, the aircraft are very close together and crew chiefs must call the rate of descent for the helicopter to make sure their rotors do not hit the rotors of another aircraft."

Training for shipboard operations is part of mission readiness and is a crucial component of being an expeditionary force. The Marines of HMM-262 understand how important training exercises like these are to keep themselves ready to carry out any mission they are tasked with.

"It is critical to be prepared at a moment's notice," said Maj. Matt A. Collins, executive officer of HMM-262. "Shipboard operations give us incredible flexibility in what (missions) we can ac-

complish. That is the primary method in which we project our presence."

Marine aviation consists primarily of sea-based deployments, and for that reason, it is extremely important that all aviation assets are trained, qualified and pre-

pared to employ their forces from naval vessels, Morrow added.

"Training like this keeps us ready to deploy and stay combat effective," Morrow stated.



A CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter pilot with Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), currently attached to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, flies along the Okinawa coastline June 2 on the way to Ie Shima to practice field carrier landing. Pilots have to do five shore-based landings, five ship landings and five landings both in high-light level and low-light conditions to obtain carrier qualification, which qualifies them to carrying troops and cargo. *Photo by Lance Cpl. Scott M. Biscuiti*

Miramar Movies

The Station Auditorium is located in Building 2242, and will be featuring the following movies. Outside food and drinks are not permitted. For more information, contact 577-4143 or log on to www.mccsmiramar.com.

Friday:
6:30 p.m. Unleased (R)
9:00 p.m. House of Wax (R)

Saturday:
6:30 p.m. Monster-in-Law (PG-13)
9:00 p.m. Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy (PG)

Sunday:
1:00 p.m. Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy (PG)
6:30 p.m. XXX: State of the Union (PG-13)

Wednesday:
6:30 p.m. Crash (R)

Thursday:
2:00 p.m. Kicking and Screaming (PG)
6:30 p.m. Unleashed (R)

Thrift shop closure

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Shop will be closed for renovations and is scheduled to reopen in July.

Anyone interested in donating goods to the thrift shop is asked to donate to a local thrift shop or charitable organization such as St. Vincent de Paul or Father Joe.

For more information, please call (619) 446-2799.

Religious Services

The Chaplain’s Office is located in Building 5632 and coordinates regularly-scheduled worship services. For the location and meeting schedules of religious activities, contact the Chaplain’s Office at 577-1333.

Sunday:
9:30 a.m. Protestant worship service
11 a.m. Roman Catholic Eucharist
Wednesday:
7 p.m. Baptist service
Monday-Friday:
11:30 a.m. Roman Catholic daily mass
Jewish:
7 p.m. First Friday of the month MCRD
7:30 p.m. Last Friday at Edson Range Chapel

Miramar Idol competition

Single, active duty personnel stationed at Miramar may enter the Miramar Idol contest July 8 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. north of Building 5300.

Entry forms must be received at the Great Escape, Building 5509, no later than 5 p.m. Thursday.

Categories include music, dance and comedy acts.

Grand prize is a private charter plane trip to Las Vegas for the winner and a guest with a Visa spending card.

The competition will also feature free food, giveaways, lasertag, rockwall climbing, music by DJ Stretch and more.

For more information, call 577-6171 or visit www.mccsmiramar.com.

All-Marine Sports recruiting

Applications are being accepted for this year’s All-Marine and Armed Forces programs.

Applications are available for cycling, taekwon do, judo, triathlon, softball, golf, rugby, soccer and marathon teams.

For more information, call 577-4127/7700 or visit www.mccsmiramar.com.

Semper Fit massages

Semper Fit now offers a variety of massage therapy at both the Sports Complex and the Semper Fit Center.

Reiki, Shiatsu, Sports, Swedish, Therapeutic and Chair massages are available.

For an appointment or more information, call 577-6147/4669.

Impounded Vehicles

The following vehicles have been impounded and need to be claimed by the owners. Towing fees average \$113, storage fees \$28 daily. For more information contact the Provost Marshal’s Office at 577-1461.

Vehicle:	License:	Vehicle:	License:
1989 Chevy Z24	CA/4TVY631	1994 Cadillac SLS	CA/3JFL323
2000 Ford Focus	CA/4JMZ536	1995 Nissan Sentra	CA/SZE4762
Mazda MX-6	FL/JPOJGS	1995 Mits. Eclipse	KY/907KKR
1987 Toyota Camry	CA/5CJZ685	1984 Linc. Limo	CA/3MGV444
Chrysler Shadow	MN/FPR718	1989 Ford Taurus	TX/T40PRC
1989 Toyota Camry	CA/4VI588Z	Unk. Trailer	CA/1VW1350

